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8/28/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :  
YOSHIAKI KUMAMOTO ET AL : ATTN: APPLICATION DIVISION  
SERIAL NO: NEW U.S. PCT APPLICATION  
(Based on PCT/JP99/02366) :  
FILED: HEREWITH :  
FOR: MOLDED ARTICLE :

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to a first examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified  
application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 1 as follows:

--1. (Amended) A molded article comprising pulp and having an opening portion, a  
body portion, and a bottom portion, wherein said body portion has no seams, the outer and  
inner surfaces of said article are smooth, and said body portion has at least one cross-  
sectional diameter which is greater than a corresponding cross-sectional diameter of said  
opening portion or greater than another corresponding cross-sectional diameter of said body  
portion, said corresponding cross-sectional diameter of said opening portion and said another  
corresponding cross-section diameter of said body portion being located within the vertical  
plane which contains said cross-sectional diameter of said body portion.--